



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board • Department of Pesticide Regulation • Department of Toxic Substances Control
Integrated Waste Management Board • Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
State Water Resources Control Board • Regional Water Quality Control Boards



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Cal/EPA needs your help to put the action into our Environmental Justice Action Plan

Environmental Justice is defined in California law as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies."

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) will host a series of workshops in October and November 2004, to discuss issues and gather input for our Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan. Four workshops are scheduled in different locations around the state (*schedule on back page*). This is the first set of workshops designed to involve the public in the activities of Cal/EPA's EJ Action Plan. You will be notified of additional opportunities for public involvement as they are scheduled.

Join us at the workshop closest to you to:

- *Discuss goals, processes and timelines for the activities in the EJ Action Plan*
- *Help us begin efforts to develop guidance on key EJ issues*
- *Provide input on pilot project development*

Background

One of the first EJ bills passed in California, Senate Bill 89 (Escutia, Statute 2000), established the Cal/EPA Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) and the Cal/EPA Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice to advise the Secretary on EJ matters. This successful relationship has guided Cal/EPA in developing our EJ Strategy, released in August 2004. To further advance our EJ efforts, Cal/EPA has also developed an Environmental Justice Action Plan. This Action Plan calls for statewide input and involvement from a broad range of stakeholders on key environmental justice issues to:

- Develop guidance on assessing and addressing cumulative impacts
- Develop guidance on precautionary approaches to minimize or prevent adverse environmental and health impacts
- Develop guidance and tools for public participation and community capacity-building

Pilot Projects

The Pilot Projects will test new ideas and approaches. At the workshops, participants will assist in defining parameters and suggesting potential locations.

- The Air Resources Board will lead a pilot project in Southern California focusing on emissions in an urban community, particularly near highways and industrial sources.
- The Department of Pesticide Regulation will lead a pilot project in the Central Valley, focusing on pesticide issues in rural farming communities.
- The Department of Toxic Substances Control will lead a pilot project in Northern California, focusing on Brownfields and site remediation issues in an urban community.
- The State Water Resources Control Board will lead a pilot project in North Central California, focusing on water resources management and related environmental issues in a tribal or rural community.

Workshop Schedule

Each workshop will be broken into two sections: An Open House where you can discuss the process with Cal/EPA staff members and review visual presentations about what we know, what we're learning, and what we hope to accomplish through the Action Plan; and a Presentation/Discussion session, where you can ask questions or provide comments on the Action Plan's goals and pilot projects.

October 12, 2004

Where?

Pilot Project by the Department of Pesticide Regulation
UC Merced Satellite Campus Inyo and Kern Rooms
550 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno

When?

Open House: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Presentation/Q&As: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 19, 2004

Where?

Pilot Project by the Air Resources Board
Offices of the South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 E. Copley Drive, Room GB, Diamond Bar

When?

Open House: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Presentation/Q&As: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 25, 2004

Where?

Pilot Project by the Department of Toxic Substances Control
Oakland Senior Center Multipurpose Room
1724 Adeline Street, Oakland

When?

Open House: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Presentation/Q&As: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

November 8, 2004

Where?

Pilot Project by the State Water Resources Control Board
California Environmental Protection Agency Offices
1001 I Street, Sacramento

When?

Open House -- Second floor lobby: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Presentation/Q&As -- Coastal Room (schedule may change):

- **Public Involvement -- 9 a.m.**
- **Cumulative Impacts -- 10 a.m.**
- **Precautionary Approaches -- 1 p.m.**
- **Pilot Project -- 4 p.m.**

For the Nov. 8 meeting, you may listen to a live audio Webcast at www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/

What's Ahead?

Input from these meetings will be used to develop recommendations that will be available for further public comment in late December 2004 through January 2005. The Cal/EPA Interagency Workgroup will hold a public meeting on the recommendations in mid-January. Further workshops will be scheduled as we proceed with the activities in the EJ Action Plan. For further information on the workshops, please contact: Jim Marxen, Chief of Public Participation, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 324-6544, e-mail: jmarxen@dtsc.ca.gov. To read the Environmental Justice Strategy and Action Plan visit: www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/

Individuals who require special accommodations or who would like to request interpretation for these meetings are requested to contact Adrian Perez, State Water Resources Control Board at (916) 341-5880. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 and request to speak to Mr. Perez.